

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00607 090902Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SSC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /082 W

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R 060800Z JUN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2066

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST INSPIRED RUMORS OF RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT AL-BAKR

1. DURING RECENT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION POLISH AMBASSADOR LUCKAN LIK, WHO HAS SERVED HERE THREE YEARS AND IS CONSIDERED CAREFUL DIPLOMAT, OPENLY SPREAD STORY THAT PRESIDENT AL-BAKR WILL SOON RESIGN AS PRESIDENT AND REMAIN ONLY AS FIGUREHEAD SECRETARY GENERAL OF IRAQI BAATH PARTY. HE WOULD BE REPLACED BY RCC VICE CHARIMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN WHO WOULD IN TURN BE REPLACED BY RCC MEMBER AND MINISTER OF HEALTH IZZAT MUSTAFA.

2. STORY IS WIDELY DISBELIEVED BY OTHER DIPLOMATS BECAUSE AL-BAKR HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF IMPROVED HEALTH AND MOST EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT HE AND SADDAM CONTINUE TO WORK IN HARMONY. WHAT IS MOST PERPLEXING IS WHY POLISH AMBASSADOR IS SPREADING THIS REPORT, WHICH CAN HARDLY BE PLEASING TO IRAQIS. BOTH LEBANESE AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADORS VIEW IT AS A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO CAUSE DISSENSION WITHIN REGIME AND BELIEVE THAT IS IS INSTIGATED BY RUSSIANS WHO ARE INCREASINGLY DISPLEASED WITH DIRECTION OF IRAQI POLICIES.

LOWRIE

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